

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-05 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 IO-10 AID-05 /070 W  
----- 075851

R 041130Z DEC 74

FM AMCONSUL THESSALONIKI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2175

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L THESSALONIKI 0804

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, GR, CY

SUBJECT: LOCAL REACTION TO TIMING OF MAKARIOS' RETURN  
TO CYPRUS

1. ELLINIKOS VORRAS" OF DECEMBER 4 CARRIES FRONT PAGE  
LEAD EDITORIAL BY CHIEF ED KYROU URGING THAT ARCHBISHOP  
MAKARIOS POSTPONE RETURN TO CYPRUS UNTIL AFTER DECEMBER 8  
REFERENDUM HERE. KYROU WRITES THAT VOTE ON MONARCHY MUST  
BE CONDUCTED IN PEACEFUL ATMOSPHERE WITHOUT "PSYCHOLOGICAL  
PRESSURE, DILEMMAS, OR EXTRANEIOUS ISSUES". RETURN OF  
MAKARIOS TO CYPRUS, EDITORIAL CONTINUES, WILL "PROBABLY  
LEAD TO CRISIS" DIVERTING ATTENTION OF GREEKS FROM  
SUNDAY VOTE. CYPRUS ISSUE, KYROU NOTES, HAS ALWAYS  
BEEN "LEVER" TO INFLUENCE GREEK DOMESTIC AFFAIRS  
AND, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS IN ARCHBISHOP'S HANDS  
WHETHER TO LEAVE GREEK VOTERS "UNDISTRACTED" OR NOT. BY  
POSTPONING RETURN THREE DAYS UNTIL DECEMBER 9, MAKARIOS  
WOULD BE "OFFERING SERVICE TO NATION WITHOUT HARMING  
SACRED CAUSE OF CYPRUS". KYROU CONCLUDES THAT "ANY  
OTHER MOVE WILL CREATE PROBLEMS AND SUSPICIONS WHICH WILL  
NOT CONTRIBUTE TO NATIONAL UNITY".

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2. COMMENT: CONGEN BELIEVES KYROU EDITORIAL REFLECTS THINKING OF MANY NORTHERN GREEKS WHO VIEW PROPOSED TIMING OF MAKARIOS' RETURN AS DIRECTLY RELATED TO DECEMBER 8 REFERENDUM. LOCAL OBSERVERS INCREASINGLY CITE MAKARIOS' PREVIOUS PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR MONARCHY AND VOICE SUSPICION THAT HIS RETURN TO ISLAND DECEMBER 6 IS DELIBERATE PLOY TO INFLUENCE VOTE IN FAVOR OF KING. IN THIS CONNECTION, NEWLY ELECTED NEW DEMOCRACY DEPUTY FROM KATERINI DEMOPOULOS INFORMED CONGEN DECEMBER 3 THAT, IN HIS VIEW, REFERENDUM COULD WELL BE POSTPONED IF MAKARIOS' RETURN LEADS TO UNREST ON ISLAND. HE SPECULATED THAT, AT VERY LEAST, 30-35 PERCENT VOTE FOR MONARCHY, WHICH HE ESTIMATES AT PRESENT TIME, WOULD BE INCREASED IN EVENT OF NEW DISTURBANCES IN CYPRUS. CONGEN ALSO AWARE THAT SENIOR CIVILIAN AND POLICE OFFICIALS HERE PRIVATELY EXPRESSING SIMILAR DOUBTS THAT REFERENDUM WILL TAKE PLACE IN LIGHT OF MAKARIOS' RETURN.  
BRENNAN

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PRESS COMMENTS, REFERENDUMS, FORM OF GOVERNMENT, PERSONNEL TRAVEL, POLITICAL LEADERS  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 04 DEC 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** izenbei0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 28 MAY 2004  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1974THESSA00804  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Film Number:** D740351-0881  
**From:** THESSALONIKI  
**Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Image Path:**  
**ISecure:** 1  
**Legacy Key:** link1974/newtext/t19741259/aaaabyyj.tel  
**Line Count:** 80  
**Locator:** TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM  
**Office:** ACTION EUR  
**Original Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
**Previous Classification:** CONFIDENTIAL  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** n/a  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** izenbei0  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 16 MAY 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <16 MAY 2002 by elyme>; APPROVED <19 MAR 2003 by izenbei0>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** LOCAL REACTION TO TIMING OF MAKARIOS' RETURN TO CYPRUS  
**TAGS:** PFOR, PINT, GR, CY, (MAKARIOS)  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005